

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2230

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE LETTER FOR DICK COMBS' INTER-
LOCUTOR AND WILL HOLD IT PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
WE ARE CERTAIN INTERLOCUTOR INTENDS TO GENERATE
MAXIMUM PUBLICITY THROUGH WESTERN PRESS IMMEDIATELY UPON
RECEIPT.

2. A WHILE BACK YOU PASSED ALONG PAUL'S QUESTION ABOUT
IGOR'S "LOW PROFILE MODE". IGOR IS FOCUSING ON CULTURAL
MATTERS AND RELIGION, BUT STILL SEES UNOFFICIAL POL/INT
COLLEAGUES. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SEVERAL TIMES WITH
IGOR, WHO HAS TOLD US HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE
WORK IS ALLOCATED.

3. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT ISSUED GOULETSOS VISAS YET.
THEY WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY ABLE TO OBTAIN NEW EXIT VISAS
TO REPLACE THE ONES WHICH HAD LONG AGO EXPIRED. WE
ARE STILL NOT SURE THE EXIT VISA PROBLEM HAS BEEN RE-
SOLVED, BUT HAVE INVITED THEM FOR FINAL INTERVIEW
FEB 18. WE ARE SENDING TELEGRAM ASKING THEM TO TELE-
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PHONE SO THAT WE CAN TRY TO NAIL DOWN THE FEB 18 DATE.
WE HOPE THAT NO PRECIPITATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON
INS CO RESPONSE. IN VIEW OF LENGTHY DELAY BEFORE INS
CO REPLIED, WE WOULD THINK THAT CLEARANCE OF INSTRU-
CTION TO POST, IF ONE IS IN OFFING, WOULD TAKE AT LEAST
UNTIL MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

4. ON THE MATTER OF THE SOVIETS SELLING OFF DISPLAY ITEMS AT THEIR NATIONAL EXHIBITION IN LOS ANGELES, WE DO NOT THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA. WE HAVE NEVER DONE THIS ON ANY OF OUR EXHIBITS IN THE USSR BECAUSE THE SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES ARE UNBELIEVABLY STICKY ABOUT DISPOSAL OF ANY EXHIBIT GOODS IN COUNTRY. IT TOOK A LENGTHY FIGHT JUST TO GET THEM TO LET US ABANDON A LARGE AMOUNT OF STRUCTURAL STUFF LEFT OVER AFTER OUR BICENTENNIAL SHOW. WE DON'T SEE ANY POINT IN MAKING THINGS EASIER AND MORE PROFITABLE FOR THEM--LETTING THEM SELL SOUVENIRS AND MOMENTOS IS ALREADY GIVING THEM MORE OF A BREAK THAN WE GET OR THEY DESERVE.

5. ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE THAT KENNAN INSTITUTE AS COSPONSOR OF WRITERS SEMINAR EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF BILL-INGTON AND KENNAN ASSOCIATION WITH IT. ESPECIALLY LATTER MUCH RESPECTED FIGURE AND FRED STARR INCREASINGLY WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN. BASED ON MESSAGES FROM CU, EMBASSY HAD ASSUMED THAT COUSINS AND INSTITUTE AND CU WORKING COOPERATIVELY ON SEMINAR, AND WE HAD MOVED SOVIET SIDE SLOWLY TO ACCEPTANCE OUR PROPOSAL, PENDING ONLY KUDRYAVTSEVA'S MEETING WITH STAFF AND GRAND TOUR KENNAN INSTITUTE. PIQUE AT STILL UNEXPLAINED "SCHEDULING PROBLEMS" WHICH PRECLUDED STAFF-KUDRYAVTSEVA MEETING ALAS PLAY LARGE IF NOT OVERRIDING ROLE IN CURRENT NEGATIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD INSTITUTE. SINCE SOVIETS COMMITTED TO A SEMINAR IN WHICH COUSINS PLAYS A ROLE, AND SINCE IT SEEMS TO BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO COOPERATE WITH SEMINAR AT KENNAN INSTITUTE, ANOTHER U.S. VENUE
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AND COSPONSOR OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY. AS SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WHEN MATTER FIRST BROACHED, EMBASSY WOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN RELYING ON SEMINAR UNDER COUSINS SOLE SPONSORSHIP, ESPECIALLY AS DEPARTMENT DESCRIBES HIS INTEREST IN IT AS SO "DIFFERENT" FROM KENNAN INSTITUTE'S, WHOSE PURPOSES COINCIDE CLOSELY WITH EMBASSY'S. THUS, WITH NO U.S. COSPONSOR IN HAND, IT'S DIFFICULT TO COMMENT ON PRACTICALITY SUGGESTING U.S.-BASED FOLLOW-UP "NOT AT KENNAN INSTITUTE" SCHEDULED SO TIGHTLY AFTER SOVIET-BASED SEMINAR AS TO DEFUSE BELGRADE ASPECT. CU HAS BEEN WORKING AT THIS PROBLEM FOR TWO YEARS WITHOUT SETTLING PROBLEM OF U.S. COSPONSOR. EMBASSY FINDS IT DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND WHY CU CANNOT FIND ACCEPTABLE INSTITUTION, ORGANIZATION, UNIVERSITY OF WHATEVER, TO COSPONSOR SUCH PRESTIGIOUS SEMINAR AS SUGGESTED. WHAT ABOUT KENYON, IOWA, STANFORD OR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (AT WHICH IS LOCATED THE TRANSLATION CENTER WHICH THE KUDRYAVTSEVA DELEGATION VISITED)? OBVIOUSLY COUSINS WOULD JOIN LIST OF COSPONSORS. FYI: RAY

DINING AT KUDRYAVTSEVA'S ON FRIDAY AND SUBJECT BOUND
TO ARISE.
TOON

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